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NEWS FROM THE RARE BOOK ROOM

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Cameron Library,
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.

This is the first issue of the "News Notes" from the new Rare Books and Archives Department of the Cameron Library. Owing to the fact that the material in the Rare Book Room is in a closed stack area, and not readily accessible for easy examination, the Library felt that some of the members of the staff might be interested in the type of material shelved in this area, as well as some of the new acquisitions to the collection. If the staff find the "notes" of interest, we will issue it from time to time when we receive unique or unusual materials.

The Library has recently purchased, several display cases in which to show some of the interesting items that are in the rare book collection. One of the cases is just outside the door of the Rare Book Room. Two additional cases are in the main rotunda of the Cameron Library, for the general use of all departments of the Library. Material from the Rare Books and Archives Department will be displayed in these cases from time to time.

Staff members may also be interested in learning something about the organization of this new department. When the Library moved to the new Cameron Library Building, provision was made, for the first time in the history of the Library for the shelving and care of this unique material, in a specially designated area, the Rare Book Room and the Archives Room, on the lower floor of the Library. A staff of two, a rare books and archives librarian and a secretarial assistant are now in the process of organizing the department.

There are two committees concerned with the work of this department, the University of Alberta Archives Committee and the Rare Book Committee. The first committee has the responsibility of preserving the University of Alberta publications, which tend to disappear without a trace over the years; and also of collecting manuscript and other similar materials of interest to the University. The second committee is interested in building up the rare book collection. It is at the present time concerned with the problem of selecting from the Cameron Library stacks the books that are rare or scarce and that should be shelved in the Rare Book Room.

This issue of the new notes is mainly concerned with listing some of the items on the shelves of the Rare Book Room. As the news notes will be sent to interested staff members, annotations will be limited to brief comments.

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The following list are some of the items in the collection. Earlier works that are recorded in either Pollard and Redgrave, Short-title catalogue, 1475-1640, and Wing, Short-title catalogue 1641-1700 have the abbreviation "STC" and the number of recorded copies in libraries throughout the world added to the entry. (e.g. STC - 10). This will indicate the rarity of the item listed.

Dionysius, Areopagita. (Philosophical writings). Edited by Marsilius Ficinus and printed for the Cardinal Medici Library, Florence. 1492.

This is our earliest item and our only incunabulum at the present time.

Elyot, Sir Thomas. The boke name the governour. 1546.

There is a fair sampling of 16th century books in the collection. This is a good English example of a popular English work. STC - 4

Erasmus, Desiderius. The first tome or volume of the paraphrases of Erasmus upon the New Testament. 1551.

Bacon, Francis. The tvvoo bookes of Francis Bacon, of the proficience and the advancement of learning, divine and human. 1st edition. 1606. STC - 7

Donne, John. Poems and elegies. 1633. 1st edition. STC - 8

Milton, John. The doctrine and discipline of divorce. 1643. STC - 12

Also, two curious books worth recording:

Milton, John. Eikonoklastes. In answer to a book initl'd. Eikon Basilike, the portrature of his sacred majesty in his solitudes and sufferings. 1649. STC - 14

Jane, Joseph. Eikon Aklastos. The image unbroken, a perspective of the impudence, falsehood, vanitie and prophannes published in a libell entitled Eikonoklastee against Eikon Basilike. 1651. STC - 10

Luther, Martin. A commentarie of Master Doctor Martin Luther upon the epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. 1644. STC - 2

Beaumont, Francis & Fletcher, John. Comedies and Tragedies. 1647. STC - 12

Shakespeare, William. Comedies, histories and tragedies. 4th edition, 1685. STC - 6

Sprat, Thomas. History of the Royal Society of London. 1st edition, 1667. STC - 13

Boyle, Robert. Some considerations about the reconcileableness of reason and religion. 1675. STC - 10

Burton, Robert. The anatomy of melancholy. 1676. STC - 12

Browne, Sir Thomas. Religio Medici. 7th edition. 1678. STC - 9

Grew, Nehemiah. The anatomy of plants. 1st edition, 1682. STC - 15

Barnes, Joshua. The history of that most victorious Monarch Edward IIId, King of England and France. 1688. STC - 12

Johnson, Samuel. Dictionary of the English language. 2 vols. 1st edition, 1755.

Bryon, George Gordon. Childe Harold's pilgrimage; Canto the fourth. 1st edition, 1818.

Scott, Sir Walter. Redgauntlet. 3 volumes. 1st edition, 1824.

Thackerary, William M. The virginians. (in parts). Illustrated by the author, 1st edition, 1857-59.

Dickens, Charles. The Nonesuch Dickens. 23 volumes. 1937-38. This is a limited edition designed by Francis Meynell. It includes the Nonesuch original Dickens plate and woodcut illustration.

Dickens, Charles. The Posthumous papers of the Pickwick Club. (in parts). 1st edition, 1836-37. Illustrations by Seymour and "Phiz".

And a companion volume; illustrating the period:

Egan, Pierce. Life in London. Designed and etched by I.R. Cruikshank. 1st edition, 1821.

Browning, Robert. The ring and the book. 4 volumes. 1st edition, 1868-69.

Hardy, Thomas. Tess of the D'Ubervilles. 3 volumes. 1st edition, 1891.

Thoreau, Henry D. Walden; or, Life in the woods. 1st edition, 1854.

The collection also contains some valuable folio reproductions of early Bibles and Psalters:

Bible. Latin. Maintz, 1454-1455. Gutenberg (42 Line) Biblia Sacra. Known as the Gutenberg Bible. 2 volumes. N.Y., Pageant Books, 1961.

Bible. Manuscripts. Anglo-Saxon. N.T. Gospels. Lindisfarne gospels. 7th century. 2 volumes. Lausane, Switzerland, 1956-60.

Catholic Church. Liturgy and ritual.. Psalter. Luttrell psalter. A facsimile copy printed for the trustees of the British Museum. 1932.

A noteworthy gift to the Library is the magnificient elephant sized folio set of facsimile early maps of Portuguese navigators.

Cortesai, Armando. Portugaliae monumenta cartographica. 6 volumes. 1960.

It was published by the Portuguese Government to mark the fifth centenary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460). This Library was one of the educational institutions presented with a set.

A few examples of the work of world famous printing presses are listed here:

Caesar, C. Julius. Commentarii. Venice, Aldine Press. 1 volume. 1576.

Suetonius. Tranquilius, C.C. Suetonii Tranquilii XII Caesares. Paris, Roberti (2d) Stephani Typographi. Estienne Press, 1543.

Fulgentius, Saint, Bp. of Ruspa,
Opera divi Fulgentii Afri, episcopi Ruspensis. Anterwerp, Plantin Press, 1573.

(Jacobus de Varagine). The Golden legend. 3 volumes. This is a reproduction of William Caxton's work printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press, 1892.

Cuala Press Books.

A recent addition to the Rare Book Collection are the privately printed Cuala Press books, from Dundrum, Ireland. This collection consists mainly of works by the group of Irish writers connected with Yeats, and printed on the Press run by Miss Elizabeth Yeats, a sister of William Butler Yeats. Such Irish writers as Synge, Gregory, Russell, Gogarty and of course Yeats, are included.

Hebrew Scrolls.

A gift of note was received in 1928 from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in the form of two beautiful scrolls of the Hebrew Laws.

D.H. Lawrence Collection.

One of the largest individual collections of books in the Rare Book Room is the Sir David Eccles collection of D.H. Lawrence works. This consists of approximately one hundred items of his published works.

Wordsworth Manuscripts.

Probably one of the most unique collections in the Rare Book Room are the reproduced manuscripts of William Wordsworth. This collection of photostatted copies of his original notebooks was deposited with us for safekeeping by the Dove Cottage Museum in Grasmere, England. There are only two photostatted copies of the collection extant, one deposited at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, England and the other in this Library.

Dr. A.C. Rutherford Canadiana Collection.

The most important single collection in the Rare Book Room is the Dr. Rutherford Canadiana Collection. Dr. A.C. Rutherford, the first premier of the province of Alberta, and later Chancellor of the University, collected over the years many important items in the field of Canadiana. After his death, his daughter Mrs. S.H. McCuig, presented this collection to the University Library. This basic collection has been continuously added to and now contains over 1,000 items. Some of the interesting works in this collection are:

Bible. New Testament. St. Mark. Cree.
The gospel according to St. Mark, translated into Cree. Athabasca Landing. Printed at the Mission Press, 1896.

Kane, Paul. Wanderings of an artist among the Indians of North America. 1st edition, 1859.

MacKenzie, Sir Alexander. Voyages from Montreal...through the continent of North America to the frozen and Pacific oceans in the years 1789 and 1793. 1801.

Palliser, John. Exploration. - British North America. 1859-65.

The most recent addition to the Rare Book Room is the "Ralph E. Ford John Bunyan Collection", which consists of over 100 volumes of Rare or unique items. This collection will be put on display sometime late in November or early in December.

Some of the above listed books will be on display within the next few weeks in the display case outside the Rare Book Room.

Faculty are welcome to visit the Rare Book Room any day, Monday to Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon
1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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Only 100 copies of the "News Notes" have been issued. With the exception of administrative officers of the University and heads of departments, only a selected group of members of the staff have been sent a copy. We will appreciate it, if heads of departments will either circulate it to members of their department, or place it on their bulletin boards for interested members to see.

Anyone requesting to have his or her name placed on the mailing list for future issues, or wishing to secure one of the remaining copies of this issue should go to the Rare Books and Archives Department in the Cameron Library or 'phone extension 775.

Dorothy I. Hamilton,
Rare Books and Archives Librarian.